

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed October 5, 2005, and the Advisory Action mailed February 21, 2006, have been received and their contents carefully noted. This response supplements the *After Final Response* filed January 5, 2006. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Two Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to March 5, 2006. Also, filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 27, 2003.

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-4, 13, 19, 28 and 29 are independent. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 25 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (page 2, Paper No. 0305). Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-43 are currently elected, of which claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-43 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,876 to Yamazaki et al. The Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite removing an entire surface portion of a crystalline semiconductor layer after irradiation, which is supported

in the present specification, for example, at page 6, line 18 to page 7, line 13. Yamazaki teaches that “[t]he crystallized silicon film 203 is etched to form an island-like silicon region” (column 15, lines 10-11; Figures 2B and 2C, reproduced below).

FIG. 2B

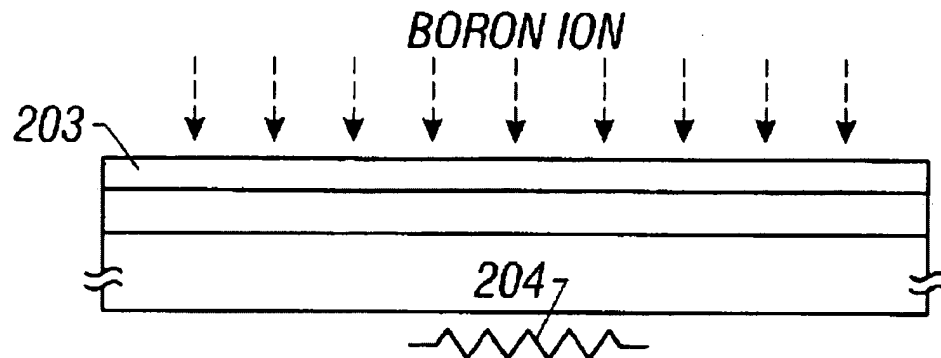
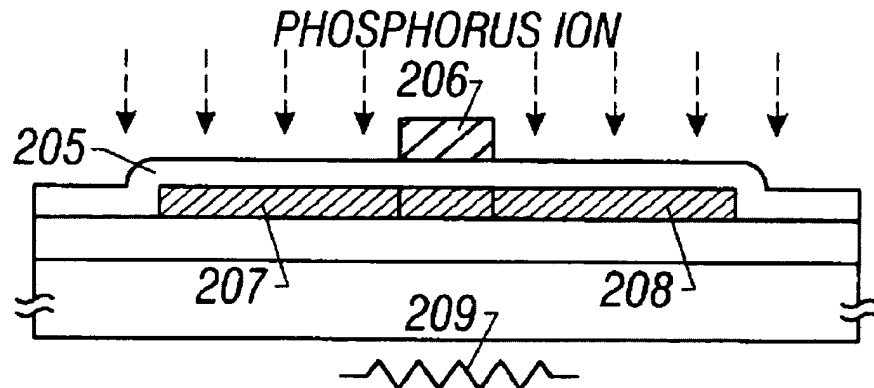


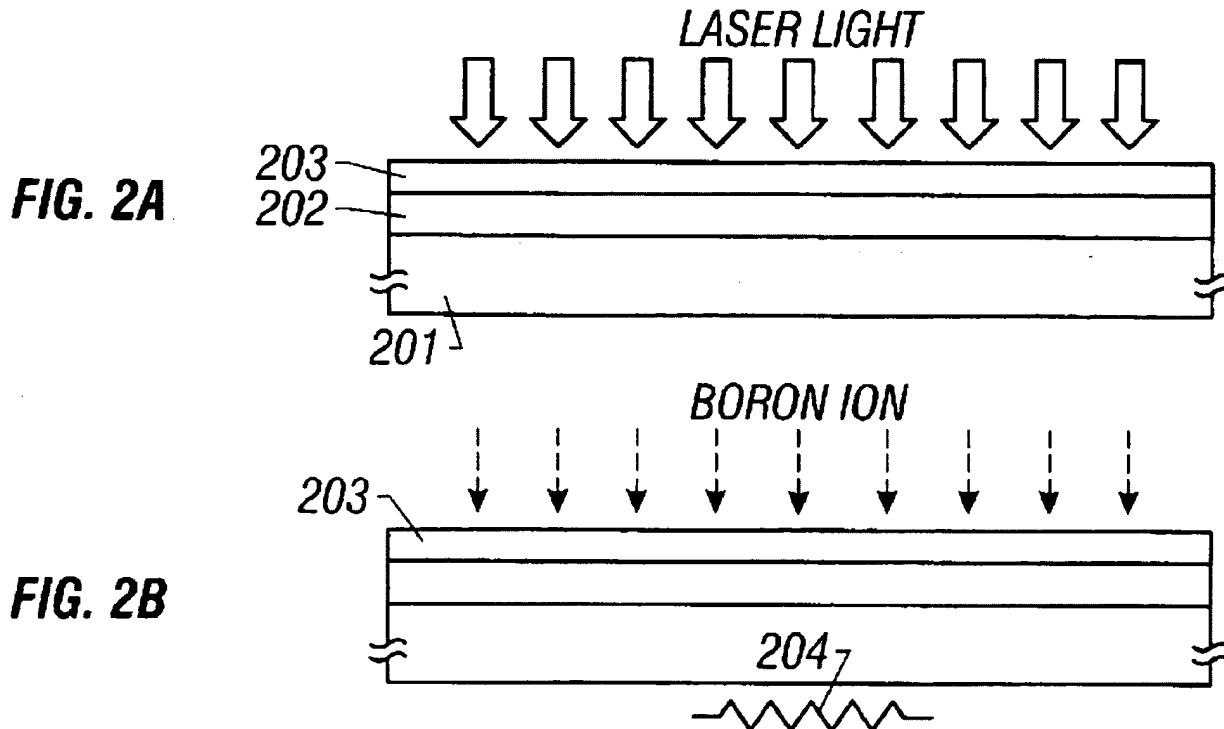
FIG. 2C



That is, a part of the crystallized silicon film 203 is masked in order to form an island like silicon region. Thus, only a part of the surface portion of the crystalline semiconductor is removed. Yamazaki does not teach removing an entire surface portion of crystallized silicon film 203 after irradiation, either explicitly or inherently.

Also, the independent claims have been amended to recite or already recited irradiating a crystalline semiconductor after a step of introducing an impurity. The Official Action asserts that Figure 2B; column 15, lines 1-9 supports “introducing an impurity of one conductivity type into the crystalline semiconductor layer” and “irradiating the crystalline semiconductor layer with laser light to redistribute the impurity” (page 3, Paper No. 1005). However, Yamazaki appears to teach these steps in the opposite order. That is, Yamazaki appears to teach laser irradiation (column 14,

line 59+; Figure 2A) and then implantation of boron (column 15, line 1+; Figure 2B) (Figures 2A and 2B reproduced below).

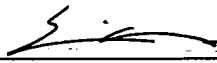


In Yamazaki, the impurity is implanted after laser irradiation. Therefore, Yamazaki does not teach irradiating a crystalline semiconductor layer with laser light to redistribute an impurity. Specifically, Yamazaki does not teach irradiating a crystalline semiconductor after a step of introducing an impurity, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Yamazaki does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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